

Fayetteville/Cumberland County Named As One of the Top Towns For Military Retirees In *Where To Retire* Magazine

Fayetteville, NC – December 1, 2009 – Fayetteville, NC, dubbed America's First Military Sanctuary Community, was recently named as one of eight 5-Star Towns for Military Retirement in the November/December 2009 issue of *Where to Retire* magazine. The magazine describes Fayetteville as an ideal location for retired military personnel to settle down for a few key reasons: proximity to post, patriotic support, and cultural and recreational activities. The town also boasts the third-largest veteran population in the country allowing veterans to interact daily with their fellow comrades.

Home to Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville allows military retirees to not only live among approximately 50,000 active duty soldiers and their families, but to have access to the many on-base amenities available to current military members and veterans. With the two nearby bases, veterans have access to complimentary or reduced-fee athletic and fitness facilities, can visit post doctors and can shop at the commissary on base where prices are lower and they don't have to pay taxes.

Aside from the numerous military amenities, the greater Fayetteville area has other offerings appealing to retirees. The town's proximity to the beach and mountains, located just off I-95, 60 miles south of Raleigh, offers residents a taste of it all. The area itself provides many recreational and cultural attractions such as historical sites, nature preserves, and museums. Veterans can explore military museums including the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum and Airborne and Special Operations Museum to reminisce on past military glories. For more outdoorsy activities, the Cape Fear River provides the opportunity to boat and fish, and the area boasts 20 golf courses to choose from. Three of these courses, Anderson Creek in Spring Lake, Bayonet at Puppy Creek in Raeford and Keith Hills Country Club in Buies Creek, were recently honored with *Golf World* magazine's Reader's Choice Award.

Fayetteville also offers many cultural facilities such as art galleries and museums, as well as venues that host live entertainment. Plays, concerts, theatre productions and family themed performances are presented year-round by the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra – the oldest continuously funded community orchestra in North Carolina – the Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Gilbert Theatre and Crown Center. Through these venues, national touring companies put on performances of musicals, classic dramas and comedies, and local playwrights and actors showcase their original works. In addition to the performing arts, Fayetteville's vast visual arts can be seen on display at the Fayetteville Museum of Art and Cape Fear Studios. Home to a collective group of local artists and crafters displaying their works, Cape Fear Studios is the area's best place to buy one-of-a-kind handmade items like pottery, jewelry, photographs and painting. The studios also provide art workshops for the aspiring artist that are open to the public.

Setting Fayetteville apart from the other communities on the list such as Sierra Vista, Arizona; San Antonio, Texas and Panama City, Florida are the many unique military

support groups, such as the Army's Army, that serve to protect the interests of the troops and advocate for their every need. The Army's Army, a 1,000+ member volunteer organization comprised of local citizens and businesses, provides support and assistance to the troops through various programs and events. Doing everything they can to make soldiers feel welcome and appreciated in Fayetteville/Cumberland County, the Army's Army also provides personalized relocation assistance and important area information to military families through their social networking site FayettevilleWantsYou.com (FWY). Initially launched to aid with BRAC (base realignment and closure), which will bring the Forces Command and Special Reserve Command to Fort Bragg in 2011, FWY is also a valuable resource for military retirees interested in moving to the area.

About the FACVB:

The Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, not-for-profit organization responsible for positioning Fayetteville/Cumberland County as a destination for conventions, sporting events and individual travel. For additional information, visit www.visitfayettevillenc.com or call 1-800-255-8217. Fayetteville/Cumberland County is the America's first military sanctuary. Through the Army's Army and other volunteer groups, our citizens and businesses are dedicated to watching over those who watch over us.